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GSA URBAN CENTER NEWS

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*"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."
Harry S Truman*

To Our Federal and Community Partners:

As GSA's Center for Urban Development nears its second birthday, we continue our work to help GSA's regional offices leverage their real estate actions in ways that support communities--to bolster community efforts to encourage smart growth, economic vitality, and cultural vibrancy. This regular Enews is designed to keep you informed about GSA's projects and activities across the country. We invite you to share in our efforts and we encourage your feedback and input.

Thanks for your support.

NATIONAL NEWS

GSA-Focused Mayors' Institute on City Design - Mayors from five cities (Springfield, MA; Gulfport, MS; Laredo, TX; Rochester, NY; and Cedar Rapids, IA) and the associated GSA regional leadership met December 7-9 in Washington, DC, in a special session of the Mayors' Institute. The sessions focused on federal real estate projects and planning and how to use federal-local collaboration to make the most of GSA's investment in communities. Governing magazine will include coverage of the event in an eight-page "Federal Spaces Community Places" insert in its March 2001 issue. For more information, contact Edward Giefer on (202) 219-2355.

Field Officer Training - The Center gathered its field officers in Washington, DC, December 6-7 for a training session and workshop. The program included an overview of the Center for Urban Development as an introduction for new field officers and a refresher for everyone else. Other sessions focused on projects and case studies, including a discussion of past successes and lessons learned, as well as our Good Neighbor principles. We also set goals for the coming year and discussed implementation plans and next steps. For more information, contact Frank Giblin on (202) 501-1856.

GSA Addresses FAMA - On November 21, GSA met with the Federal Administrative Management Association -- a group of the Federal government's top career facilities, asset management, and administrative policy people -- to discuss GSA's commitment to locating and remaining in urban areas and in historic buildings and districts whenever possible and to urge other federal agencies to join us in our efforts. The Center's Policy Director Edward Giefer joined Elaine Dade of GSA's Office of Management Services, Caroline Alderson of GSA's Historic Buildings and the Arts Center of Expertise, and Rob Nieweg from the National Trust for Historic Preservation for the presentation. For more information, contact Edward Giefer on (202) 219-2355.

Center Participates in Rail-Volution 2000 - Policy Director Edward Giefer moderated a panel at "Rail-Volution 2000", a five-day event in Denver centered on building livable communities with transit. The panel, titled "Sprawl: What's the Real Cost?", featured research and case study data on the effects of sprawl from three speakers: Reid Ewing of Rutgers University; Sam Seskin of Parsons Brinckerhoff in Portland; and Lewison Lem of EPA in Washington, DC. Giefer opened the standing-

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room only session with remarks on what GSA and the Center for Urban Development are doing to combat sprawl and quantify the benefits of locating federal facilities in central business areas. For more information, contact Edward Giefer on (202) 219-2355.

Smart Growth Conference - The Center was a sponsor of the 4th Annual Partners for Smart Growth Conference held in Atlanta, GA, December 4-6, 2000. The conference theme was "Engaging the Private Sector" and aimed to take smart growth to the next level by demonstrating how common ground and collaboration are the building blocks for successful smart growth implementation strategies. The sessions featured specific examples of projects, communities, and regions that are getting results from their smart growth strategies in their economies, environments, and local communities. For more information, contact Edward Giefer on (202) 219-2355.

REGIONAL NEWS

Southeast Sunbelt Signs Good Neighbor Agreement With Columbus, Georgia - On October 3, Columbus, Georgia, and the Uptown Columbus Business Improvement District became part of GSA's Good Neighbor program. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed by GSA's Southeast Sunbelt Region and the Uptown BID. The signing ceremony was held on the steps of GSA's historic U.S. Courthouse/Post Office in Columbus. GSA will partner in Columbus revitalization efforts and purchase external safety and cleaning services from the BID. For more information, contact George McGrady, (404) 331-4940, or Delores Stanley (404) 331-2367.

SPECIAL NOTES

Altman Departs Center: - Director Hillary Altman has left the Center for Urban Development after building and leading the Good Neighbor program and the Center in her four and a half years of federal service. Altman has accepted a new position at OPX, an architecture, interiors, and organizational strategies firm in Washington, DC. She can be reached there beginning April 2. Contact: Hillary Altman, 202-997-0079 (wireless).

Web site: Check out our newly redesigned and updated our web site at <http://goodneighbor.gsa.gov>.

NEXT ENEWS...

Updates on projects across the country, News on conferences in New Orleans and Indianapolis, The latest on the Center's partnership with the National Main Street Center, Where to find Issue 2 of the Center's Urban Policy Update, and more.

(Please email questions, comments or contributions to the ENews to Edward Giefer at edward.giefer@gsa.gov or call (202) 219-2355.)